

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EUR-12 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

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S E C R E T SANA 1124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE

SUBJECT: QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT IN TAIZ

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE STILL LACK DEFINITIVE STATEMENT FROM YAR LEADERSHIP OF ROLES AND MOTIVES AND AIMS OF YAR IN QUADRI-PARTITE CONFERENCE BUT PRELIMINARY REPORT IS POSSIBLE FROM THIS CORNER OF PENINSULA. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORTS HERE FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS -- BUT NOT FROM TOP LEADERSHIP OF YARG, WHICH HAS BEEN ENGROSSED WITH SUMMITRY SINCE EHEIKH ZAYID ARRIVED MARCH 12 -- USGGESTS THAT YEMENIS SEE SEVERAL IMPORTANT BENEFITS TO CONFERENCE WHICH STARTS TOMORROW IN TAIZ.

2. FIRST, SUMMIT MEETING REFLECTS WELL ON YEMEN AND YAR. YEMENIS DISLIKE THEIR ISOLATION FROM AMINSTREAM OF ARAB POLITICS AND SENSE CONDESCENSION FROM OTHER ARAB LEADERS. THEY SEE THEMSELVES AS TALENTED, INDUSTRIOUS, POPULOUS STATE WITH VISIONS OF CONTRIBUTION TO ARAB CULTURE, POLITICS, POWER. RED SEA SECURITY IS ISSUE MADE TO ORDER TO RESTORE YEMENI AMOUR PROPRE AND, OF COURSE, HAMDI WEL-COMES REFLECTED GLORY FOR HIS OWN PRESTIGE WITHIN YEMEN.

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3. SECOND, CONFERENCE IS SEEN HERE AS PRIMARILY ANTI-ETHIOPIAN. YEMENIS HAVE SIMMERING FEUD WITH ETHIOPIA OVER ISLANDS, YEMENI COMMUNITY WITHIN ETHIOPIA, AND "OVERFLIGHTS". YEMENIS CLEZRLY BELIEVE, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THAT ISRAELIS HAVE RPEVAILED ON EMBATTLED RADICALS IN ADDIS TO EXTEND NAVAL AND AIR FACILITIES TO GOI. WE SUSPECT THAT THREE OF LEADERS WHO WILL

GATHER IN TAIZ --NUMAYRI, HAMDI, SIAD BUT NOT SALIM
-- WILL WANT TO EXPLORE WAYS TO DETACHING ERITREA FROM
ETHIOPIA AND ASSURING CLOSE RELATIONS OF SOME SORT WITH
DJIBOUTI AT ETHIOPIAN EXPENSE. CALL FOR LATTER TO JOIN
ARAB LEAGUE, FOR INSTANCE, WOULD HELP GIVE SOME CREDENCE
TO CLAIM THAT RED SEA IS ARAB LAKE.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION THERE ARE RUMORS HERE THAT STATES
INVOLVED MAY BE WILLING OFFER SOME KIND OF GUARANTEES TO
DJIBOUTI AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND MAY BE ABLE TO AGREE ON
SOME KIND OF NOMINAL MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE
SURVEILLANCE OF BAB AL MANDEB AND RED SEA ISLANDS
AGAINST ISRAELI AND OTHER AGGRESSORS. YEMENIS HAVE
SPECIFICALLY OFFERED TO HELP FRENCH IN MATTER OF
GETTING GUARANTEE FROM SOMALIS FOR DJIBOUTI AND SEEK
MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOWER RED SEA WHICH WILL
JUSTIFY MODERNIZATION OF YAR AIR FORCE.

5. THIRD, YEMENIS SEE CONFERENCE AS PUTTING PDRY (AND
SOMALIS TO LESSER EXTENT) ON SPOT. YEMENIS SEE CONFER-
ANCE AS INITIATIVE OF MODERATE ARABS LIKE SAUDIS,
EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE. THEY ARE BEING FORCED TO
CHOOSE BETWEEN RADICALISM AND ARABISM. WE ARE
HEARING STORIES THAT KINGDOM AT YARG REQUEST INTER-
VENED TO GET NUMAYRI TO CALL FOR SUMMIT IN TAIZ,
RATHER THAN SIMPLY VISIT ADEN. SAUDI CHARGE HERE,
FOR INSTANCE, SAYS PRIME MINISTER ABDAL GHANI'S UN-
EXPECTED TRIP TO SEE BAHD AND KHALID WAS TO THANK
SAUDIS FOR THEIR HELP IN THIS DIRECTION. BRITISH HERE,
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HOWEVER, REPORT THAT WHILE ADEN MAY HAVE BEEN GLAD TO
GET ZAYID VISIT, THEY DID NOT WANT EMBARRASSMENT AND
PUBLICITY OF FOUR POWER SUMMIT WHICH MIGHT APPEAR CALL
INTO QUESTION THEIR RADICAL AND SOVIET SYMPATHIES RIGHT
AFTER RINGING DECLARATIONS OF CASTRO VISIT.

6. WHATEVER FACTS ABOUT CONFERENCE BACKGROUND,
YEMENIS SEE SUMMIT WHICH PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYYA
ALI ATTENDS IN YAR AS DRAMATIC EXAMPLE OF NEW ALTER-
NATIVES WHICH BEING OPENED TO MAN AND STATE FORMERLY
NOTED ONLY FOR SUBVERSION AND LEFT-WING SYMPATHIES.

7. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, CONTACTS HERE WITH SOVIET
DIPLOMATS SUGGEST THAT THEY ARE DISTINCTLY UNEASY
ABOUT EVENTS. SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS TAKEN UPON HIM-
SELF TO VOLUNTEER TWICE TO US IN LAST WEEK THAT THEIR
POSITIONS IN BOTH YEMENS ARE TOO STRONG TO BE DIS-
PLACED. WE THINK HE'S RIGHT, BUT IT ALSO SEEMS HE'S
A BIT WORRIED ABOUT SWING OF THE PENDULUM.

COMMENT: WE WILL HAVE TO RESERVE FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL WE GET IN TOUCH WITH KEY YEMENIS. HOWEVER, CONFERENCE CONSISTS OF SUCH DISIMILAR PARTICIPANTS THAT WE DOUBT IT WILL GET MUCH DONE. RED SEA SECURITY ARRANGMENTS IN PARTICULAR SEEM UNLIKELY TO EMERGE FROM CONFERENCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, CONFERENCE MAY BE USEFUL IN CONTEXT OF SHORING UP SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT DJIBOUT. IT MAY ALSO MOVE PARTICIPANTS (LESS PDRY?) TOWARD MORE SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS. HOWEVER, MODERATE ARABS HAVE SCORED A SUCCESS SIMPLY IN BRINGING SUDANESE AND YAR TOGETHER WITH SOMALIS AND PDRY AT SUMMIT LEVEL TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF COMMON ACTION. CONFERENCE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO REALIGNMENT IN AREA SOUGHT BY SAUDIS.
SCOTES

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